

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 14-17 and 52-61 are pending in the application. Claims 52-61 have been added. Other previously pending claims have been canceled without prejudice to further prosecution of subject matter previously described and/or claimed in the application in continuation or divisional filings.

Response to Prior Amendment

The withdrawal of prior rejections and objections noted in item 1 of the Final Office Action is gratefully acknowledged. The maintenance of the doubling patenting rejections is also noted.

Election/Restriction

The constructive election and withdrawal from consideration of claims 45-51 is acknowledged. These claims are accordingly canceled, without prejudice, in order to expedite prosecution of subject matter indicated allowable.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 103 and Allowable Subject Matter

The art-based rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103 are noted. The indication the allowability of claims 10 and 44 is gratefully acknowledged. In order to expedite prosecution of the subject matter indicated allowable, claims 10 and 44 have been rewritten in independent form as amended claim 1 and new claim 52.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of prior claim 10 and its intervening claims 2 and 9. Claim 1 is now submitted to be prior claim 10 rewritten in independent form. Prior claims 2, 9 and 10 have been canceled accordingly. Withdrawn claims 12, 13 and 45-51 have been canceled. The dependencies of the remaining claims depending from amended claim 1 have been amended accordingly. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 and its dependents are allowable for at least the same reasons as prior claim 10.

Claim 52 has been written to incorporate the recitations of prior claims 1, 2, 9 and 44 and is thus submitted to be prior claim 44 rewritten in independent form. Additional new claims 53-61 depend from claim 52 and correspond to prior dependent claims 3, 4, 7, 10, 11 and 14-17, respectively. These dependent claims are respectfully submitted not to represent any newly claimed subject matter and to be allowable for at least the same reasons as prior claim 44.

Double Patenting

The obviousness-type double patenting rejections over claims of applications 10/686,189 (now U.S. Patent 7,282,296) and 10/731,771 (now U.S. Patent 7,282,302) are noted. Terminal Disclaimers accompany this response in order to obviate these rejections.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below. If any further fees are due in connection with the filing of this amendment, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 500388 (Order No. PLUSP039).

Respectfully submitted,
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